

Meet the Staff

JAMES CURTIS CECIL, III, D.M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. James Curtis Cecil, III was appointed Administrator, Oral Health Program for the Commonwealth of Kentucky as well as consultant to the Department for Medicaid Services in January 2001. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Cecil was a faculty member in the Division of Dental Public Health, Department of Oral Health Science in the College of Dentistry at the University of Kentucky. Until January 2000, Dr. Cecil had also served as Dental Director for Kentucky Health Select, a provider-governed managed care organization that conducted the Medicaid program in 23 central Kentucky counties as part of Kentucky's 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver project. He served as the Dental Director for a federally funded migrant health center developed by the University of Kentucky Medical Center and UK Dental Care, a voluntary self-insured dental plan for University faculty and staff formed by the College of Dentistry until his state appointment in 2001. Dr. Cecil is an associate of the Kentucky School of Public Health and the University of Kentucky College of Allied Health Professions.

Dr. Cecil received his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree from Bellarmine University in 1966, his Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree from the University of Kentucky in 1970 and his Masters in Public Health (M.P.H.) degree from the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan in 1976.

In 1996, Dr. Cecil joined the University of Kentucky faculty after a distinguished career with the United States Navy. Just prior to retirement from the Navy Dental Corps, Dr. Cecil served a full tour as the Senior Advisor and Consultant for Dentistry in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs at the Department of Defense (DoD). During his Navy career, Dr. Cecil served as Director of Dental Health Care Operations Division at the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C. and was directly responsible for the daily operations of the Navy's worldwide dental health care delivery system. He also served as the Executive Officer for the Navy Medical Research and Development Command in Bethesda, Maryland and the Commanding Officer of the Navy Dental Research Institute in Great Lakes, Illinois. Dr. Cecil led the development and implementation of the methodology for the Dental Quality Assurance/Risk Management Program for worldwide application in Navy Dental and Medical shore facilities, aboard ships and mobile naval and Marine forces. He was posted as Deputy Director for Dental Affairs of the Navy Inspector General's office within the Office of the Secretary of the Navy during the middle 1980s. For seven years in the 1990's, Dr. Cecil represented the Department of Defense as an *ex officio* member of the National Advisory Council of the National Institute of Dental Research in Bethesda, Maryland. He received numerous meritorious service awards with the Navy and the DoD including the Defense Superior Service Medal in 1996. He is a fellow of the International College of Dentists and a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. Dr. Cecil is an active member in national and international dental, public health, and health research professional organizations.

Since returning home to Kentucky, Dr. Cecil has been actively involved with the development of "Seal Kentucky", a preventive dental outreach program that serves 29 Appalachian counties in Eastern Kentucky and oral health outreach programs in Western and Central Kentucky. He has also provided leadership for epidemiological studies related to oral health in Kentucky and the dental insurance initiatives of the College of Dentistry. He was appointed as a Board member for the National Association of Dental Plans Foundation in 1999. Dr. Cecil's research and service

interests include epidemiology of oral diseases and health services projects related to access to oral health care.

Jim Cecil is the spouse and the best friend of Betty Sue Cecil and they are the proud parents of Daniel Cecil of Lexington, Kentucky and Courtney Wachtel of Chicago, Illinois.

Robert G. Henry, DMD, MPH

Bob Henry joined the Oral Health Branch as Assistant Director in July 2001. Dr. Henry is also the assistant director for Geriatric Dental Services and Assistant Chief of Dental Services at the Department of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, Lexington, Kentucky. He is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, and an Associate, Sanders-Brown Research Center on Aging. In 1986, he established a dental clinic at Lexington Center for Health and Rehabilitation, Lexington's largest community based nursing home and served as the dental director until 1999. Dr. Henry is the immediate past chairman of the Board of Federation of Special Care Organizations in Dentistry, a national organization whose mission is to improve the oral health of all Americans who have disabilities, who are hospitalized or who are elderly and may be unable to access needed dental services. Dr. Henry is currently director of the statewide oral health survey of the elderly.

Linda Grace Piker, MS, RD, LD

Linda Grace Piker joined the staff of the Oral Health Program in May 2001, where she works with the fluoride supplement program and health education activities. Linda Grace transferred to the Oral Health Program from the Kentucky Women's Cancer Screening Project where she was employed for eight years as the Inreach/Outreach Coordinator. She also has experience working in health departments located in Frankfort, KY and Cleveland, OH.

Prior to her husband's military retirement, Linda Grace worked in the educational, dietetic and public health arena. She has been actively involved in numerous cancer-related activities at the local, state and national level. She has served on the board of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, the Kentucky Breast Cancer Coalition, the Cancer Support Network, Inc., and the Migrant Network Coalition.

Linda Grace completed her undergraduate degree at Ouachita Baptist University, AR, her graduate degree at Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, and is currently working toward her MPH degree at the University of Kentucky. In April 2001, she was a member of the first graduating class of the Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute.

Linda Grace is married to Chuck Piker and has one son, Douglas, who is a **senior** at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA.

Don Miniard, R.S.

Don Miniard, co-manager of the community and rural school fluoridation programs, has 24+ years experience with the fluoride program. He is an employee of the Cumberland

Valley District Health Department. Don is based in Harlan County. In addition to administrative duties, he also works with communities and schools in southeastern Kentucky.

Bob Murphy, BA

Bob Murphy, co-manager of the community and rural school water fluoridation programs, has worked in State Government for ten years. He joined the Oral Health Program in May of 2000 where he is responsible for assuring that communities and schools in the Commonwealth are in compliance with state regulations and maintain optimal fluoride levels. Bob also supervises the field staff in community and rural school water fluoridation programs.

Bob has a BA in Political Science from the University of Kentucky.

Sharlee M. Shirley, RDH, MPH

Sharlee Shirley is a Registered Dental Hygienist and former dental hygiene faculty member of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System at Henderson. She received a Baccalaureate Dental Hygiene Degree and Master of Public Health Degree both from Western Kentucky University. An active member of the American Dental Hygienists' Association, she has served as Vice President of the South Central Kentucky Dental Hygiene Society, First Vice President, President-Elect, and Ms. Shirley is currently in her second term as President of the Kentucky Dental Hygienists' Association. She is a participant in several public health coalitions including the Kentucky Committee of the National Governor's Association Policy Academy on Children's Oral Health. Ms. Shirley is Kentucky's first ever Spit Tobacco Education Coordinator and currently works with the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry Division of Dental Public Health and the Kentucky Department for Public Health. She is a national speaker and educator who is also a member of the Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene Honor Society.

Field Staff

The Oral Health Program strategically locates field staff in the Commonwealth to provide technical assistance to communities and selected schools in maintaining optimal levels of fluoride in their drinking water.

Gerald Luttrell, R.S.

Gerald Luttrell began his public health career over forty years ago as a custodian when the state health department was moved from Louisville to Frankfort. He continued with his education and the following jobs in state government: supervisor of the state mailroom, the rubella program, completed training and worked as an x-ray technician in the state's TB program. In the mid 1970's, Gerald was one of the original staff members who implemented the community and rural school fluoridation programs and was placed

in charge of these programs in 1977. Gerald guided the community/school water fluoridation program for twenty-three years before his retirement from state government in 1999. Gerald continues to work in the program on a part time basis as a member of the field staff and is responsible for ensuring that sixty-three communities in Northern and Central Kentucky are in compliance with state regulations and maintain the optimal levels of fluoride in their water supplies.

Retirement has provided Gerald with more time to enjoy his hobbies of boating. One of his goals is to learn to fish and catch an award winning fish. Gerald is also a big NASCAR fan.

Wayne Adams, R.S.

Wayne Adams worked in the community/school water fluoridation program for twenty-five years prior to his retirement in 1999. Currently, Wayne is employed by the Martin County Health Department and is responsible for ensuring that twenty-five communities in Northeastern and Eastern Kentucky are in compliance with state regulations and maintain the optimal levels of fluoride in their water supplies.

For additional information about the Oral Health Program, please contact us at (502) 564-7996.